

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

at a computer, ~~having storing~~ a plurality of sets of conditional rules ~~defined~~ in a memory, ~~therein, receiving a trader selected set of conditional rules,~~

wherein ~~the selected each~~ set of conditional rules defines a discovery strategy and an action strategy, the discovery strategy specifying parameters for computer-implemented logic that determines whether to obtain a price quotation for at least one of a plurality of markets and ~~how to obtain~~ indicates at least one procedure for obtaining the price ~~quotations for at least one of a plurality of markets quotation~~, and the action strategy specifying order processing parameters,

wherein each set of conditional rules is implemented in [[an]] a computer-executable order-handling program ~~that is executable by the computer~~, and

wherein execution of the order-handling program includes automatically routing an order to at least one of a plurality of markets in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules[[,]]; at a computer, receiving a trader selection of a set of conditional rules from the plurality of sets of conditional rules;

at [[the]] a computer, receiving an order for processing in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules[[,]]; at a computer, receiving information that is applied to the selected set of conditional rules to determine at least one of the plurality of markets to which to route the order; and

at [[the]] a computer, executing the order-handling program configured with the selected set of conditional rules to route the order to the at least one of the plurality of markets in accordance with the set of conditional rules.

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11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules is embodied in a decision table, each conditional rule defining at least one condition to occur and at least one corresponding action to be taken when the respective condition has occurred.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules routes the order in accordance with one or more relationships represented by respective codes defined between the order-handling program and the plurality of markets.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules routes the order in accordance with a characteristic of the order.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules routes the order in accordance with a characteristic of the at least one of the plurality of markets, wherein the characteristic defines a manner in which the at least one market provides information and processes an order.

15-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the discovery strategy includes discovery from at least one informal market provided by a liquidity provider not subject to regulation by a government securities regulation agency at the time the order-handling program implementing the set of conditional rules is executed.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the discovery strategy includes a discovery methodology selected from at least two of (i) conducting no discovery, (ii) accessing a market status board maintained by a trading platform on which the plurality of markets executes, the market status board including price quotation information from at least one

of the plurality of markets, (iii) querying selected ones of the plurality of markets, and (iv) obtaining information from an advisory process.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the action strategy comprises the results of conditional rules that are applicable because of characteristics of at least one of the order and the market.

21-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the order is routed to at least two markets in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules.

32. (Currently amended) A system for facilitating trading, comprising:
a computer ~~having~~ in communication with a memory,

wherein the memory has stored therein a plurality of sets of conditional rules, ~~defined in a memory therein~~, each set of conditional rules defining a discovery strategy and an action strategy, the discovery strategy specifying parameters for computer-implemented logic ~~that determines~~ whether to obtain a price quotation for at least one of a plurality of markets and ~~how to obtain~~ indicates at least one procedure for obtaining the price quotations for at least one of a plurality of markets quotation, and the action strategy specifying order processing parameters, and

wherein each set of conditional rules is implemented in [[an]] a computer-executable order-handling program ~~that is executable by the computer~~, said order-handling program being configured to automatically route an order to at least one of a plurality of markets in accordance with the conditional rules implemented in the order-handling program,

wherein the computer has a selection component configured to receive a selection of one of a set of conditional rules from the plurality of sets of conditional rules, and

wherein the computer further has an order component and an execution component, the order component being operable to receive an order for processing in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules, and the execution component being operable to receive information that is applied to the selected set of conditional rules to determine at least one of the plurality of markets to which to route the order and to execute the order-handling program ~~configured with the selected set of conditional rules~~ to route the order to the at least one of the plurality of markets in accordance with the set of conditional rules.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the set of conditional rules is embodied in a decision table, each conditional rule defining at least one condition to occur and at least one corresponding action to be taken when the respective condition has occurred.

34. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the set of conditional rules is executable by the execution component to route the order in accordance with one or more relationships represented by respective codes defined between the order-handling program and the plurality of markets.

35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the set of conditional rules is executable by the execution component to route the order in accordance with a characteristic of the order.

36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the set of conditional rules is executable by the execution component to route the order in accordance with a characteristic of the at least one of the plurality of markets, wherein the characteristic defines a manner in which the at least one market provides information and processes an order.

37. (Canceled)

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38. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the discovery strategy includes discovery from at least one informal market provided by a liquidity provider not subject to regulation by a government securities regulation agency at the time the order-handling program implementing the set of conditional rules is executed.

39. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the discovery strategy includes a discovery methodology selected from at least two of (i) conducting no discovery, (ii) accessing a market status board maintained by a trading platform on which the plurality of markets executes, the market status board including price quotation information from at least one of the plurality of markets, (iii) querying selected ones of the plurality of markets, and (iv) obtaining information from an advisory process.

40. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the action strategy comprises the results of conditional rules that are applicable because of characteristics of at least one of the order and the market.

41. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the order-handling program, when executed, is configured to route the order to at least two markets in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules.

42. (Currently amended) A non-transitory computer-accessible medium having executable instructions stored thereon for facilitating trading, wherein the instructions, [[if]] in response to being executed, cause a computer to:

~~receive a trader selected set store a plurality of sets~~ of conditional rules,

wherein ~~the selected each~~ set of conditional rules defines a discovery strategy and an action strategy, the discovery strategy specifying parameters for computer-implemented logic that determines whether to obtain a price quotation for at least one of a plurality of markets and how to obtain ~~indicates at least one procedure for obtaining the price quotations for at least one~~

~~of a plurality of markets quotation~~, and the action strategy specifying order processing parameters,

wherein the selected set of conditional rules is implemented in [[an]] a computer-executable order-handling program ~~that is executable by the computer~~, and

wherein the order-handling program is configured to automatically route an order to at least one of a plurality of markets in accordance with the conditional rules implemented in the order-handling program;

receive a trader selection of a set of conditional rules from the plurality of sets of conditional rules;

receive an order for processing in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules;

receive information that is applied to the selected set of conditional rules to determine at least one of the plurality of markets to which to route the order; and

execute the order-handling program configured with the selected set of conditional rules ~~to route and routing~~ the order to the at least one of the plurality of markets in accordance with the set of conditional rules.

43. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules is embodied in a decision table, each conditional rule defining at least one condition to occur and at least one corresponding action to be taken when the respective condition has occurred.

44. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules is configured to route the order in accordance with one or more relationships represented by respective codes defined between the order-handling program and the plurality of markets.

45. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules is configured to route the order in accordance with a characteristic of the order.

46. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules is configured to route the order in accordance with a characteristic of the at least one of the plurality of markets, wherein the characteristic defines a manner in which the at least one market provides information and processes an order.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the discovery strategy includes discovery from at least one informal market provided by a liquidity provider not subject to regulation by a government securities regulation agency at the time the order-handling program implementing the set of conditional rules is executed.

49. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the discovery strategy includes a discovery methodology selected from at least two of (i) conducting no discovery, (ii) accessing a market status board maintained by a trading platform on which the plurality of markets executes, the market status board including price quotation information from at least one of the plurality of markets, (iii) querying selected ones of the plurality of markets, and (iv) obtaining information from an advisory process.

50. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the action strategy comprises the results of conditional rules that are applicable because of characteristics of at least one of the order and the market.

51. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the order-handling program implementing the set of conditional rules is configured to route the order to at least two markets in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules.

52. (Currently amended) A system for facilitating trading, comprising:

~~computer means for receiving a trader selection of a set of conditional rules from storing~~

a plurality of sets of conditional rules ~~defined~~ in a memory, wherein ~~the selected~~ each set of conditional rules defines a discovery strategy and an action strategy, the discovery strategy specifying parameters for computer-implemented logic that determines whether to obtain a price quotation for at least one of a plurality of markets and how to obtain indicates at least one procedure for obtaining the price quotations for at least one of a plurality of markets quotation, and the action strategy specifying order processing parameters, wherein each set of conditional rules is implemented in [[an]] a computer-executable order-handling program that is executable by the computer means, and wherein execution of the order-handling program includes automatically routing an order to at least one of a plurality of markets in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules[[],];

computer means for receiving a trader selection of a set of conditional rules from the plurality of sets of conditional rules;

computer means for receiving an order for processing in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules[[],];

computer means for receiving information that is applied to the selected set of conditional rules to determine at least one of the plurality of markets to which to route the order; and

computer means for executing the order-handling program configured with the selected set of conditional rules to route the order to the at least one of the plurality of markets in accordance with the set of conditional rules.